

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. ORGANIZATIONS IN ROME TO ARRIVE IN DHAKA

DHAKA, MARCH 27 -- Ambassador Gaddi Vasquez, the eighth U.S. Representative to the United Nations Organizations in Rome, arrives in Bangladesh tomorrow. Ambassador Vasquez will travel within Bangladesh March 31 through April 3 visiting rural communities in cyclone Sidr-affected parts of the country to observe how the United States, international organizations, and NGOs are working together to strengthen partnerships for food security in a region that was devastated during last year's cyclone. The Ambassador will lead a group of journalists from Iraq, India, Italy, Morocco, Qatar and Bangladesh. Together they will meet with farmers, community representatives, government officials, and religious leaders to discuss how humanitarian and agricultural assistance partnerships can better help local communities recover from the effects of Sidr.

Ambassador Vasquez was nominated by President George W. Bush and unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate on June 29, 2006. Mr. Vasquez was sworn into office on September 7, 2006 by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Mr. Vasquez most recently served as the Director of the United States Peace Corps and became the third-longest serving Director in the Peace Corps' 47 year history.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this article is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>